



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/456,892	12/07/1999	MURALI PARTHASARATHY	5150-18301	7045

7590 09/16/2002

JEFFREY C HOOD  
CONLEY ROSE & TAYON PC  
PO BOX 398  
AUSTIN, TX 78767

EXAMINER

CHAVIS, JOHN Q

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2124

DATE MAILED: 09/16/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/456,892

Applicant(s)

PARTHASARATHY ET AL.

Examiner

John Q. Chavis

Art Unit

2124

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 December 1999 and 20 September 2000 a .
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 December 1999 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2-3. 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Specification*

1. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

2. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it is too long. Correction is required.

See MPEP § 608.01(b).

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fowlow as applied to claim 1 below, and further in view of Cain (5,651,108).

The applicant claims a method and system for visually creating a graphical automation client which is operable to invoke a method of an object and querying a type library to

determine a set of methods which can be invoked on the object. The features of the applicant's claims are now presented in a side by side manner with the teachings of Fowlow/ Cain.

Claims

1. A computer implemented  
method for creating a graphical  
Automation client which is operable  
To invoke a method of an object,

Wherein the method for creating  
The graphical program operates in a  
Computer including a display screen

And a user input device,

wherein the Object is exported by an  
automation Server,

the method for creating the Graphical  
program comprising:

displaying on the screen an automation  
invoke node in response to user input;

Fowlow (F)/Cain (C)

See Fowlow title and the abstract of the  
invention. See also (F) col 6 lines 16-56,  
especially the last two sentences. See  
also col. 6 lines 23-27.

See the functional part of fig. 1 in view  
of fig. 2 (F).

See again fig. 2.

See col. 11 lines 1-27; the passing  
feature indicates that the reference  
information is being retrieved from an  
external location (server) into the  
requesting object (client). Col. 6 lines  
16-37 further indicates the feature.

See again the abstract.

See the icons in col. 3 lines 41-59.  
The step of making a selection action  
provides for invoking in response to  
user input.

providing class information to said automation invoke node, wherein said class information specifies an automation class from which the object may be instantiated;

See col. 12 lines 14-col. 13 line 16.  
The identifying of file and object characteristics is considered to provide for specifying an automation class. Note also that Fowlow provides a catalog (library or framework) at the end of col. 12 and col. 11 lines 29-63 to facilitate accessing an reusing code (instantiating objects). Also, see col. 6 lines 52-56; the instance creation provides for invocation of the object.

providing type library information to said automation invoke node, wherein said type library information specifies a type library associated with the automation server;

The specific class information above provides for the type library information; since a cataloged class provides for specific information pertaining to each class, see again specifically col. 13 lines 1-16. Also, see col. 9 lines 45-50 and col. 6 lines 30-37 which further indicates that types are provided in the catalog (library).

querying said type library to determine a set of methods which can be invoked on said object;

Although it may be argued that Fowlow provides for the querying feature via his searching and providing the user means for identifying file objects and characteristics (possibly methods) that

can be searched, col. 12 lines 14-col. 13 line 16, and catalogued based on properties of the object and various related components (again possible methods), Fowlow does not specifically state that his querying determines a set of methods that can be invoked.

However, Cain teach such a querying system to improve object reusability via visually selected properties and methods, see the title, abstract, the summary, fig. 4E, and col. Lines 20-44. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Fowlow with the querying feature taught by Cain to simplify the reusability of objects in a graphical environment by providing a visual indication of the available methods (methods that can be invoked) for the reasons taught by Cain.

displaying on the screen a set of methods based on said querying;

See again the cited portion above.

wherein said automation invoke node is operable to invoke one of said methods.

See in the locations (F) above the making of a selection **action** on one of the icons. Fowlow also indicates the feature via col. 3 lines 35-41 and col. 4

lines 51-56. Also, see again the cited portion of Cain above.

2. The computer implemented method of claim 1, further comprising: Selecting a method from said set of Methods, in response to user input, to Be invoked by said automation invoke Node.

See again the cited portion of the last wherein clause in claim 1.

3. The computer implemented method of claim 1, further comprising: constructing execution instructions in response to said graphical automation client, wherein said execution instructions are operable to instantiate an object of said automation class and invoke said method of said object.

See again the abstract and col. 3 lines 16-59 and note that object creation (instantiation) is provided for and “ making a selection action on one of the icons” , coll. 3 lines 41-46, provides for the invoking feature.

4. The computer implemented method of claim 3, further comprising: executing said execution instructions, wherein said automation invoke node invokes said method on said object during execution.

See col. 3 lines 36-40 and also note the “ making a selection action on one of the icons” occur during execution. Therefore, invocation inherently occurs during execution.

The features of claim 5 are taught via claim 1. While it may be argued, that Fowlow’ s “ related information” also includes property information with the method information, as indicated above, Fowlow does not specifically state this. However, the

Art Unit: 2124

feature is taught by Cain to improve reusability by simplifying the development process, see Cain' s abstract. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Fowlow with the teachings of Cain of enabling invocation of properties of objects visually for the same reasons they are utilized by Cain in enabling methods above.

Claims 6-8 are rejected as claims 2-4 above in view of the rejection of claim 5.

In reference to claims 9-11, see the rejections of claims 1-3. The computer readable medium is indicate via Fowlow' s figs. 2 and 3 to enable reusability of code. See also, col. 5 lines 65-67.

As per claims 12-14, see the rejection of claims 5-7 in view of claims 9-11.

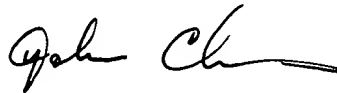
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Q. Chavis whose telephone number is 703-305-9665. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory Morse can be reached on 703-308-4789. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7239 for regular communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-3900.



Jqc  
September 10, 2002



John Chavis  
Patent Examiner